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ACTION
OCA 87-3125

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1. D/OCA		X
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24 July 87
Date

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Remarks:

22 July 87
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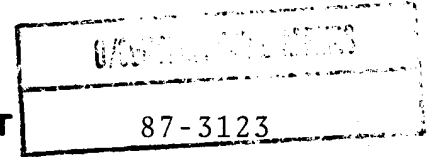
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

July 20, 1987

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM



SPECIAL

TO: Legislative Liaison Officer
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8/1/87 LEG
LEG # _____

SUBJECT: Department of Transportation statement for the record
on H.R. 1171 -- National Oceans Policy Commission.

The Office of Management and Budget requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President, in accordance with OMB Circular A-19.

A response to this request for your views is needed no later than

FRIDAY-- JULY 24, 1987

Questions should be referred to Constance J. Bowers (395-3457), the legislative analyst in this office.


James C. Murr for
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Enclosures

cc: Adele Fasano
Phyllis Scheinberg

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**WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD
OF
THE HONORABLE ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE
SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BEFORE THE
MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MAY 21, 1987**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. I appreciate the opportunity to submit this statement for the record concerning H.R. 1171, a bill "to establish the National Oceans Policy Commission, and for other purposes."

Over twenty years have passed since the Stratton Commission Report, and since then many new statutes have been enacted. As you know, the policy and objectives of the Marine Resources and Engineering Development Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-454) were for the United States to develop, encourage, and maintain a coordinated, comprehensive, and long-range national program in marine science for the benefit of mankind; to assist in the protection of health and property; to enhance commerce, transportation and national security; to rehabilitate our commercial fisheries; and to increase utilization of these and other resources. For those purposes, section 5 of that Act established a commission on marine science, engineering, and resources that undertook a comprehensive study of all

aspects of marine science in order to recommend an overall plan for an adequate national oceanographic program to meet present and future national needs.

As you know, the report of the Stratton Commission was the genesis of the creation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the Executive Branch, and of Congressional action on a host of legislation concerning the oceans and the atmosphere. These legislative efforts include the Marine mammal Protection Act of 1972 (Public Law 92-522), the Marine Protection, and Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (Public Law 92-532), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-205), the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-265), the National Sea Grant College Program Amendments of 1976 (Public Law 94-461), the National Climate Program Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-367), the Outer Continental Shelf Land Act Amendments of 1978 (Public Law 95-372), the National Ocean Pollution Research and Development and Monitoring Planning Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-273), the Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-283), and the Ocean Thermal Energy Conservation Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-320). To its credit the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries in six previous Congresses was instrumental in the passage of these complementary laws.

Implementation of these laws, reinforced by Executive Branch actions, such as the declaration by President Reagan of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone, in March 1983, has greatly expanded interest and investments in federal oceans programs.

In furtherance of these programs, H.R. 1171 would provide for the creation of the National Ocean Policy Commission. The Commission would consist of seventeen members. Three of the members would be directly appointed by the President and may be federal officers or private sector individuals. The remaining members would be appointed by the President from nominees submitted by the Senate Majority Leader and the Speaker of the House of Representatives in consultation with the Minority Leader of each body. The nominees would be selected from various marine-related policy categories, and no more than half could be from the same political party. The President, the Majority Leader, and the Speaker would jointly select a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission.

The Commission would have two years to undertake the duties set forth in the bill to develop a comprehensive oceans policy, and provide recommendations for the implementation of that policy, which is intended to assist the President and the Congress on (a) developing domestic policies and laws to promote the wise use and conservation of marine resources, including Great Lakes resources, (b) developing international policies and laws to promote the

peaceful use of the oceans and balance the interest of all nations; (c) promoting United States leadership in marine scientific research, facilities, and technology; (d) developing the role and capacity of the United States in monitoring and prediction of global oceanic atmospheric processes; and (e) equitably allocating other responsibilities for marine and atmospheric research and marine resource understanding, conservation, management, and development among the various levels of government and the private sector; and promoting the efficient use of limited fiscal resources for such activities.

We view the purposes of H.R. 1171 as a genuine expression of concern over the future of our nation's efforts to husband our marine resources. However, in consideration of the broad protection provided by and the effective administration of the provisions of the laws I previously cited, we do not at this time see the need for a National Oceans Policy Commission.

Furthermore, in consideration of the prominent roles of the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior in administering existing and any future laws on marine resources we defer to these Departments concerning the merits of H.R. 1171.

That concludes my statement for the record on H.R. 1171. I appreciate the opportunity to present these views for your consideration.